

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for use in setting the drag on a fishing reel having fishing line thereon, said apparatus comprising:

5 a fishing line coupling means coupled to a force or weight transducer;

 an indicator, coupled to said force or weight transducer, that changes its indication based on forces applied when said fishing line coupling means is coupled to the fishing line and forces are applied by said apparatus, said indicator indicating a particular fishing line test value, from a plurality of fishing
10 line test values, when the current force applied is a predetermined percentage of said fishing line test value.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said force or weight transducer comprises a spring scale having a housing and wherein said indicator comprises a sliding indicator, said spring scale further comprising a plurality of fishing line test values distributed along the length of said
15 housing, said fishing line test values corresponding to a percentage of the breaking force of said plurality of fishing line test values.

3. The spring scale of Claim 2 wherein said plurality of fishing line test values comprise a first set of graduations distributed along the length of said housing and wherein said percentage of the breaking force of a plurality of fishing lines is 25%.

20 4. The spring scale of Claim 3 wherein said plurality of fishing line test values comprise a second set of graduations distributed along the length of said housing and wherein said percentage of the breaking force of a plurality of fishing lines is 33%.

25 5. The spring scale of Claim 2 wherein said plurality of fishing line test values comprise a first set of graduations distributed along the length of said housing and wherein said percentage of the breaking force of a plurality of fishing lines is 33%.

6. The spring scale of Claim 5 wherein said plurality of fishing line test values comprise a second set of graduations distributed along the length of said housing and wherein said percentage of the breaking force of a plurality of fishing lines is 25%.

30 7. An electronic scale for use in setting the drag on a fishing reel having fishing line and having a fishing line test value, said scale comprising:

 a force sensor, coupled to the fishing line, for converting a force applied to the fishing line into an electrical signal;

means for inputting a percentage of the breaking force of the fishing line by the user;

a gain stage, coupled to said means for inputting a percentage, for converting the electrical signal into a fishing line test value based on said percentage inputted by said means for inputting a percentage; and

a display for displaying said fishing line test value when the corresponding percentage of the breaking force of the fishing line is achieved.

8. The electronic scale of Claim 7 wherein said force sensor is a strain gauge.

9. The electronic scale of Claim 7 wherein said force sensor is a load cell.

10. The electronic scale of Claim 7 wherein said means for inputting a percentage comprises a switch that allows the user to select one of a plurality of predetermined percentages of the breaking force of a fishing line, said switch controlling the activation of a plurality of gain amplifiers corresponding to said predetermined percentages.

11. The electronic scale of Claim 10 wherein said switch allows the user to select 25% as said percentage.

12. The electronic scale of Claim 10 wherein said switch allows the user to select 33% as said percentage.

13. The electronic scale of Claim 7 wherein said means for inputting a percentage comprises an input device that allows the user to input any desired percentage.

14. A method for setting the drag on a fishing reel having a fishing line that has a line test value without the need to make any force calculations, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling a force or weight transducer to the free end of the fishing line;

applying a force or forces to the fishing line;

displaying or indicating to the user the fishing line test value whenever a preferred percentage of the fishing line test value is reached;

adjusting a drag control mechanism on the fishing reel based on said displayed or indicated fishing line test value.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said preferred percentage is 25% of the line test value.

16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said preferred percentage is 33% of the line test value.